

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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EA/J:EFEATHERSTONE
EUR/RPE:DKURSCH; NEA/PAB:JCOON
NEA/RA:JMONTVILLE; EUR/SOV:RPERITO
EUR/RPM:BCLARK; INR/REA:JSYLVESTER
HA/ORM:ESCHERMERHORN
EA/PRCM:RHART/GFOX; PM/ISP:RJONES
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TO USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, XD, XB

SUBJECT: NATO EXPERTS REPORT ON SITUATION IN EAST AND
SOUTH ASIA

REFS: (A) USNATO 4450; (B) USNATO 4381; (C) USNATO 4537
(D) PENDLETON-SAVAGE TELCON, 11 MAY 1978.

1. WE CONCUR IN DRAFT TALKING POINTS CONTAINED PARA 2,
REF A, WITH THE FOLLOWING REVISIONS.

A) SECOND TALKING POINT SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ AS
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FOLLOWS:

-- PERHAPS THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOST INTEREST TO THOSE OF US
AT NATO IS THE CONTINUATION OF CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY'S
ALMOST OVERWHELMING PREOCCUPATION WITH THE EXPANSION OF
SOVIET INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD DISCUSSED IN PARAS
8-13 OF THE REPORT. THIS CHINESE CONCERN LEADS DIRECTLY

TO THEIR STRONG SUPPORT OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROMOTE REGIONAL COHESION AMONG THE NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS. WE ALL ARE AWARE OF THE CHINESE INTEREST IN A STRONG NATO AND THERE IS EVIDENCE OF THE PRC'S INCREASING INTEREST IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND ASEAN. AS THE REPORT

NOTES, CHINA NO LONGER AUTOMATICALLY CONDEMNS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NOW INDEPENDENT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THEIR FORMER METROPOLE POWERS. INSTEAD IT APPLAUDS SUCH COOPERATION AND SUPPORTS IN PRINCIPLE STRONGER TIES BETWEEN THE WEST (INCLUDING JAPAN) AND THE THIRD WORLD.

B) THIRD TALKING POINT SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

-- I WOULD NOTE CHINA'S STRONG INTEREST, AS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 13, IN CLOSE TIES WITH JAPAN. CHINA IS TRYING TO MOVE JAPAN TOWARDS AN ANTI-SOVIET POSITION THROUGH ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE IN THE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT) UNDER NEGOTIATION. DURING THE MAY 3 VISIT TO WASHINGTON, FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA EMPHASIZED THAT JAPAN WISHED TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PFT DESPITE THE RECENT SETBACK OWING TO A TERRITORIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN THE PRC AND JAPAN OVER THE UNINHABITED SENKAKU ISLANDS.

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C) NINTH TALKING POINT SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

-- I SHOULD NOTE THAT THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE VIETNAMESE-CAMBODIAN BORDER CONFLICT INDICATES CONTINUED STIFF FIGHTING IN SCATTERED BORDER AREAS WITH THE CAMBODIANS OFTEN ON THE OFFENSIVE. THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS VIETNAM IS TRAINING ETHNIC CAMBODIANS TO INSERT INTO CAMBODIA AGAINST THE POL POT REGIME.

D) IN TENTH TALKING POINT, LAST SENTENCE ("WE FEEL THAT NATO COUNTRIES . . .") SHOULD BE DELETED.

E) IN THIRTEENTH TALKING POINT, PHRASE "IN NORTHEAST ASIA" SHOULD BE DELETED.

2. FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS/BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON SUBJECTS NOTED IN PARA 1, REF A, WHICH MISSION MAY DRAW UPON AS APPROPRIATE DURING NAC DISCUSSION OR IN SUBSEQUENT POLADS MEETINGS.

A) INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: STATE 118933 REFERS.

B) SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN: STATE 118510 AND 119874
PROVIDE GUIDANCE.

C) THE SOVIET-PRC BORDER SITUATION:

--A NUMBER OF RECENT EVENTS HAVE AGAIN FOCUSED ATTENTION
ON THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER DISPUTE. ON APRIL 26 SOVIET
BORDER NEGOTIATOR VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LEONID ILCHEV
RETURNED TO PEKING, AT SOVIET INITIATIVE, FOR A NEW
ROUND OF BORDER TALKS.

-- HIS VISIT FOLLOWS A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED TRIP BY SOVIET
PRESIDENT BREZHNEV AND DEFENSE MINISTER USTINOV THROUGH
SIBERIA TO VLADIVOSTOK. ALTHOUGH BREZHNEV DID NOT MENTION
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CHINA PUBLICLY, HE DID STOP AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE
TRANSBAIKAL MILITARY DISTRICT OPPOSITE CHINA AND VIEWED A
COMBINED ARMS EXERCISE NEAR Khabarovsk, THE MOST SENSITIVE
AREA ON THE BORDER.

-- CHINA WAS, HOWEVER, THE SUBJECT OF A MAJOR, APRIL 1
PRAVDA EDITORIAL WHICH DETAILED THE SOVIET POSITION IN
THE BORDER DISPUTE AND ENDED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT
"THE BALL IS NOW IN CHINA'S COURT."

-- CHINA ON MAY 11 STRONGLY PROTESTED AN ALLEGED INCURSION
BY SOVIET TROOPS OVER THE MANCHURIAN BORDER, WOUNDING A
NUMBER OF CHINESE.

-- DESPITE THE FLURRY OF ACTIVITY, THERE IS NO INDICATION
THAT EITHER SIDE IS TRULY INTERESTED IN A DRAMATIC
INCREASE IN TENSIONS OR A GENUINE EFFORT TO SEEK A
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE BORDER QUESTION.

D) VICE-PRESIDENT'S TRIP:

-- VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE VISITED THE PHILIPPINES,
THAILAND, INDONESIA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND FROM MAY 1
TO MAY 10, 1978 TO UNDERSCORE AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S
REPRESENTATIVE THE CONTINUITY AND CONSTANCY OF THE U.S.
PRESENCE IN ASIA. IN MANILA, THE VICE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED
A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS, INCLUD-
ING ECONOMIC MATTERS, U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS, AND
SECURITY. DISCUSSIONS ON CONTINUED USE OF THE NAVAL BASE
AT SUBIC BAY AND THE AIR BASE AT CLARK FIELD SUCCEEDED
IN ACHIEVING AGREEMENT ON BASIC PRINCIPLES, AS A FRAME-
WORK FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES.

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-- IN THAILAND, THE VICE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED TO PRIME KRIANGSAK THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO THAI SECURITY THROUGH THE MANILA PACT, CONFIRMED U.S. WILLINGNESS TO DELIVER A SECOND SQUADRON OF F-5E AIRCRAFT, AND DISCUSSED U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS TO ASSIST INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.

-- IN JAKARTA, HE DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO U.S.

WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT FOR INDONESIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES OF PL-480 RICE TO MEET EXISTING SHORTAGES. HE ALSO INFORMED PRESIDENT SUHARTO OF U.S. AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO INDONESIAN PROCUREMENT OF A-4 AIRCRAFT.

-- IN CANBERRA, THE VICE PRESIDENT MET WITH PRIME MINISTER FRASER AND HIS ADVISORS FOR A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND BILATERAL PROBLEMS. ONE RESULT OF THESE TALKS WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ANZUS FORCES WILL HOLD EXERCISES OFF THE WEST COAST OF AUSTRALIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. TALKS IN WELLINGTON WITH PRIME MINISTER MULDOON ALSO EMPHASIZED THE CLOSENESS OF THE ANZUS RELATIONSHIP AS WELL AS COVERING INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND BILATERAL MATTERS.

-- IN ALL COUNTRIES VISITED THE VICE PRESIDENT EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASING FOOD SUPPLIES AND DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL ENERGY SOURCES.

-- AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS TRIP, MR. MONDALE NOTED THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SITUATION IN ASIA HAS CHANGED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, EMPHASIZING THE DEGREE OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND POLITICAL STABILITY PRESENT IN THE REGION WHEN COMPARED WITH THE RECENT PAST. IN A SPEECH AT HONOLULU, THE VICE PRESIDENT UNDERSCORED ONCE AGAIN THE INDISPENSABILITY OF CONTINUING U.S. POLITICAL, SECURITY AND ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE PACIFIC BASIN
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IN ORDER TO PROTECT U.S. INTERESTS AND TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT RELATIVELY STABLE GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT THERE.(MISSION MAY ALSO WISH TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO ALLIED DELS TEXT OF VICE PRESIDENT'S EAST-WEST CENTER SPEECH WHICH IS BEING REPEATED TO YOU.)

3. ABOVE GUIDANCE PREPARED PRIOR TO REF D. SHOULD NAC

CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT REPORT BE POSTPONED BEYOND
NEXT WEEK, MISSION MAY USE MATERIAL CONTAINED OR
REFERENCED IN PARA ABOVE DURING INTERIM NAC OR POLADS
MEETINGS AS APPROPRIATE. ONCE NEW DATE FOR NAC
CONSIDERATION OF EXPERTS REPORT IS SET, WE WILL REVIEW
TALKING POINTS FOR NECESSARY UPDATING. VANCE

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